

**“ALWAYS
make sure that
you understand
where your
activity fits
within the
context of your
agency’s
legislative
priorities.”**

Tips on Participating in the Legislative Process

With the new fiscal year starting and the 2011 Legislative Session wound down, it's time to think ahead to next year's session - and the opportunities it will present. One of the most professionally satisfying things we can do in our field is to provide input regarding the public purchasing legislation which we implement on a daily basis. Here are a number of tips if you are interested in participating next session.

Before you get involved with reviewing and commenting on legislation, you should be familiar with the state and local laws and rules which cover ethics for public officials and lobbying activities. This will help keep you from unwittingly violating them. ALWAYS make sure that you understand where your activity fits within the context of your agency's legislative priorities.

Central to the ability to provide input on a bill is simply knowing it exists. From January through April, bills are introduced daily and hearings and work sessions occur with just a few days notice. Throughout the session, the au-

thoritative source to check where bills are in the process is the Legislature's own website

www.leg.state.or.us/index.html.

However, oregonlive has a much more useful layout which aggregates information about a bill; especially where it is in the process; it can be found at:

<http://gov.oregonlive.com/bill/>.



**Brian R. Smith, CPPO, PMP
Purchasing Manager
Multnomah County**

One of the best sources for information, strategy, and advice about providing input on bills are the lobbyists employed by the association(s) of which your agency may be a member, e.g. Association of Oregon Counties, League of Ore-

gon Cities, Special District Association of Oregon, or Oregon School Boards Association.

To get started providing input to the legislative process, select one or two bills that are most important to you. When weighing in on a bill, you should focus on how it will affect your agency. As a purchasing professional, you are in a unique position to provide this type of information to legislators and lobbyists. Most legislators- and many lobbyists- are not well grounded in public purchasing rules and do not have a deep understanding of the technical details of how the bills they pass actually work in daily life. Your perspective is extremely valuable to them because it helps them to understand how a bill might actually work if passed- particularly if there might be unintended consequences.

Participating in the legislative process by providing input is an excellent way to develop your skills. It is also another way you as a purchasing professional can add value for the citizens you serve by providing your relevant perspective to their legislators.

Congratulations to our New CPPB's & CPPO's

**Be sure to congratulate our members who have recently earned their national certifications;
Great Job!**

CPPO: Mrs. Cinna'Mon Brannon-Williams, CPPO, CPPB, MCA-Housing Authority of Portland
Ms. Connie L. Lelack, CPPO, CPPB-OR Housing & Community Services

CPPB: Ms. Kim A. Bardes, CPPB-METRO
Ms. Jaime L. Brown, CPPB, Multnomah County School Dist. #1
Ms. Paula L. D'Alfonso, CPPB-OR Dept. of Environmental; Quality
Mr. E. L. (Lee) Fleming, Jr., OPBC, CPPB-Multnomah County School Dist. #1
Mr. Lawrence E Russell, CPPB-Multnomah County Purchasing
Ms. Sharon H. Stiffler, CPPB-METRO
Ms. Laura Barna, CPPB-OR Dept. of Administrative Services, OPS Division
Mr. Robert P. Jones, CPPB, OR Dept. Of Community Colleges & Workforce Development
Ms. Margaret A. Rockwell, CPPB-OR Dept. of Administrative Services
Mr. Robert L. Shike, OPBC, CPPB-OR Dept. of Administrative Services, OPS Division

